Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating audio, comprising:

communicating audio between an encoder and decoder using a 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus including only a first signal line and a second signal line;

transmitting, by the encoder, audio information segments on the first signal line, each segment including (i) a format portion representative of audio format modes and (ii) a data portion having audio data corresponding to one or more of the format modes; and

transmitting, by the encoder, a number of synchronization markers on the second signal line, each marker being representative of a timing of one of the audio information segments,

wherein only the first signal line and the second signal line form the 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus structured to communicate audio.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio data comprises a serial bit stream.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio information segments are unmodulated.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio information segments are representative of one or more audio channels.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the format portion comprises a 32 bit data word.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the format modes include at least one of a version number, an audio stream ID, an audio sampling rate, an audio format, and a sample width.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the audio stream ID includes an indication of an intended recipient of one or more of the transmitted audio segments.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the format modes are dynamic.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the format modes are configured to vary from one information segment to another information segment.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the synchronization markers include sync pulses.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each sync pulse represents a start of one information segment transmission.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating audio, comprising:

communicating audio between an encoder and decoder using a 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus including only a first signal line and a second signal line;

receiving, by the decoder, audio information segments on the first signal line, each segment including (i) a format portion representative of audio format modes and (ii) a data portion having audio data corresponding to one or more of the format modes; and

receiving, by the decoder, a number of synchronization markers on the second signal line, each marker being representative of a timing of one of the audio information segments,

wherein only the first signal line and the second signal line form the 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus structured to communicate audio.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the audio information segments are unmodulated.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the audio information segments are representative of one or more audio channels.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the format portion comprises a 32 bit data word.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein each sync pulse represents a start of the one audio information segment reception.

17 - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A system for communicating audio, comprising:

a 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus configured to communicate audio, including only a first signal line and a second signal line;

an encoder coupled to the 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus and configured to transmit audio information segments on the first signal line, each segment including (i) a format portion representative of audio format modes and (ii) a data portion having audio data corresponding to one or more of the format modes,

the encoder further configured to transmit a number of synchronization markers on the second signal line, each marker being representative of a timing of one of the audio information segments; and

a decoder coupled to the 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus and configured to receive the audio information segments on the first signal line,

the decoder further configured to receive a number of the synchronization markers on the second signal line,

wherein only the first signal line and the second signal line form the 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus structured to communicate audio.